



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Columbia Man Sentenced to 18 Years in Prison for 2017 Brutal Assault on Wife

A 39-year-old Columbia man convicted of a drug and alcohol-fueled brutal assault on his wife has been sentenced to 18 years in prison. David Thomas Leakan, Jr. pleaded guilty to first-degree assault on May 30 and was sentenced by Howard County Circuit Court Judge Timothy J. McCrone this morning.

According to prosecutors, police were dispatched to the couple's apartment in the 11000 block of Snowflake Court on May 27, 2017 after Leakan's mother called 911 reporting that text messages she received led her to believe he was suicidal. Leakan's wife, answered the door, dazed and bloodied by blunt force trauma and a severe stab wound to the head. Leakan emerged from a bedroom with a self-inflicted laceration to his neck and stab wounds to his chest. The couple was transported to University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center.

Assistant State's Attorney Mary DeCampo recited the statement of facts, telling the judge that after the couple had a meal Leakan repaired to the bathroom where he used cocaine. An argument ensued and the woman threatened to divorce Leakan over his drug use. Though neither party has recall, prosecutors believe Leakan, who gave conflicting statements to the police, assaulted the woman before attempting to take his own life.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Susan Weinstein characterized the assault as "vicious and heinous," and reported that Leakan's criminal record revealed that he was "a major offender." DeCampo read a written victim impact statement from Leakan's wife, who was present in the courtroom. The victim wrote that she sustained multiple skull fractures, a brain bleed, fractures to her nose and eye socket, and permanent brain injuries presenting as cognitive and speech difficulties.

Leakan apologized to his wife but stated that he couldn't remember what happened. Judge McCrone called the attack "horrific" and referring to trauma photos of the woman, observed, "It looks like somebody tried to scalp her." He sentenced Leakan to 25 years in prison, suspending all but 18 years. Upon his Leakan's eventual release, he placed him on two years of supervised probation during which he must undergo mental health and drug treatment.

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